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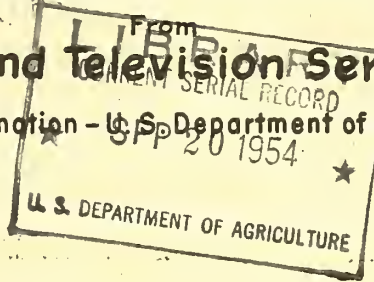


RFD LETTER

To
Radio Farm Directors

Radio and Television Service

Office of Information - U.S. Department of Agriculture



Letter No. 628
September 3, 1954

Dear Farm Director:

Here's the weekly insect survey:

A heavy army worm infestation is reappearing in central Missouri, on fescue, early seeded small grains, and soybeans; in fescue, there's a count of 30 to 40 per square foot. In Utah, the armyworm is still causing some damage to pastures and other crops.

The fall army worm is damaging late corn in several states. In Delaware, it is very destructive to the buds of late corn. In North Carolina, young corn throughout the state is heavily infested, with 100 percent of the plants seriously damaged in many fields. In Tennessee, the fall army worm is appearing in buds of corn in scattered areas. In Arkansas, infestation is general, and damage is locally severe in some counties. In southern Illinois, the infestation is apparently increasing. In Virginia, there's a heavy outbreak in late corn in Botetourt County, with 60 to 80 percent of the plants affected.

The green clover worm is unusually abundant in soybeans in Missouri and Illinois. Delaware also has a heavy attack.

Walnut aphids are more serious than usual in the Willamette Valley of Oregon.

The tomato russet mite has been found in Virginia for the first time. Specimens were found in a home garden in Arlington County. This mite is quite a pest on the West Coast, and it appears periodically in the East.

The cotton bollworm situation is still serious in Arkansas. It is also of local concern in several other states. Missouri and Mississippi are having heavy moth flights.

Calling to Your Attention...

We mailed you advance releases on the apportionment of national school lunch funds, increasing use reported for fertilizer-pesticide mixtures, and a story on protecting subfloor wood from decay.

Parity Ratio Up 1 Percent

Farm prices rose nearly 2 percent during the month ending August 15. Cotton, milk, eggs, oranges, hogs, and cottonseed were higher, and commercial vegetables and tobacco were lower.

The index of prices paid (including interest, taxes, and wage rates) rose nearly one percent during the month, with higher prices for production goods, primarily feeder livestock and feed.

With prices received rising more than prices paid, the parity ratio rose 1 percent to 89 -- about 2 percent lower than a year ago.

U. S. Folks Returning from World's Poultry Congress

U.S. delegates were returning this week from the 10th World's Poultry Congress at Edinburgh, Scotland. More than 100 poultry people from this country were at the meeting, including six from the Department of Agriculture.

They came back with some very solid facts and impressions. First, they found that the poultry producers in Scotland, the United Kingdom generally, and many other countries know just as much as we do about producing poultry; and they are more diligent than we are in applying their knowledge of good husbandry. But our people found that our marketing practices are far more effective than theirs in making poultry available every day to the housewife at competitive prices.

No New Record -- and That's News

The July output of nonfat dry milk solids is in the news this week because it did not set a new record. Figures just released show that for the first time in 19 months the current monthly production of total nonfat dry milk solids has failed to make a new high record for the month.

July output was 3 percent less than record production a year earlier. Stocks of nonfat dry milk solids held by manufacturers at the end of July were the lowest for the date since 1950.

Network Farm and Home Shows September 11

NBC National Farm and Home Hour - Saturday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. EDT. "USDA Headlines" from Washington. A feature on West Coast legume seed production and the effect on the Nation's grassland acreage.

ABC American Farmer - Saturday 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. EDT. "Top of the Farm News" from USDA. A report from the California State Fair with Bill Adams, RFD at KGO, San Francisco. A USDA feature on the school lunch program, with Leonard Trainer, Director of the Food Distribution Division. A land-grant college feature on the annual Grange Encampment of Centre County, Pa., farm families at Pennsylvania State University, with Extension Editor Elton Tait.

CBS Farm News with Claude Mahoney - Saturday 3:30 to 3:45 p.m. EDT.

Water, Irrigation, and Conservation Loans Becoming Available

Loans for farmstead water supplies and irrigation systems are now available throughout the United States, and soil conservation loans will be available as soon as detailed instructions are worked out. Announcement was made this week by Secretary Benson.

Credit for farm irrigation systems and farmstead water supplies has been available in the 17 Western states since 1937. Legislation recently passed by Congress extended the water facility loans to the entire U.S., authorized the new soil conservation loans, and provided government insurance for water facility and soil conservation loans advanced by private lenders.

Reappointed Directors of Central Bank for Co-ops

The Farm Credit Administration this week announced the reappointment of James H. Lemmon of Lemmon, S.D., and F. R. Wilcox of Los Angeles as director of the Central Bank for Cooperatives. The Central Bank for Cooperatives makes loans to large farmers' cooperatives throughout the U.S. and assists the 12 district banks for cooperatives in financing their lending operations.

Exports Under Special Programs

Sales of CCC wheat for export as wheat or wheat flour under the special export program announced last November totaled 63 $\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels through August 12.

Also announced this week was the sale of 30,000 pounds of CCC butter to one company for use as cocoa butter extender. Also announced was the sale of 54,883 pounds of cheddar cheese for export to Belgium; counting this sale, 158,740 pounds of CCC cheddar have been sold for commercial export under the current program at prices in line with world cheese prices.

Among Ourselves...

In case you missed it, Dix Harper is the cover boy on the August issue of Quill Magazine. Inside is a feature story on WLS and its programming for farmers, written by News Director Bill Small. It's called "Hired Hand to 466,848 Farms", and we believe it gives farm broadcasting generally a good plug.

Red Turnbull of WDAF and the Kansas City Star was in town this week, and we had a good visit with him. He was here primarily in connection with contest activities of the F.F.A.

Layne Beaty is back in town after a visit to the Southwest. He's scheduled to remain here until the middle of October. Then he'll take over as project leader and technical consultant for a group of Latin American radio and press people who will be in this country through November and part of December. More about that later.

George Menard has a new farm TV program on WBBM-TV, Chicago, a daily presentation called "Farm Daily." E. C. (Red) Stangland of KSOC, Sioux Falls, S.D., is just now back home after a farm tour into the midwest.

The Drought Disaster Counties

This week, Secretary Benson designated five more counties - four in Oklahoma and one in Colorado - as drought disaster areas. This brings the total to 321 counties in eight states. These 321 counties embrace a total acreage approximately equal to the combined areas of Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Iowa and Minnesota.

Missouri has 76 drought disaster counties, Texas 75, Oklahoma 41, Arkansas 37, Kansas 30, Colorado 25, New Mexico 24, and Wyoming 13. Attached is an up-to-date map of the disaster area.

Sincerely,

Ken and Don

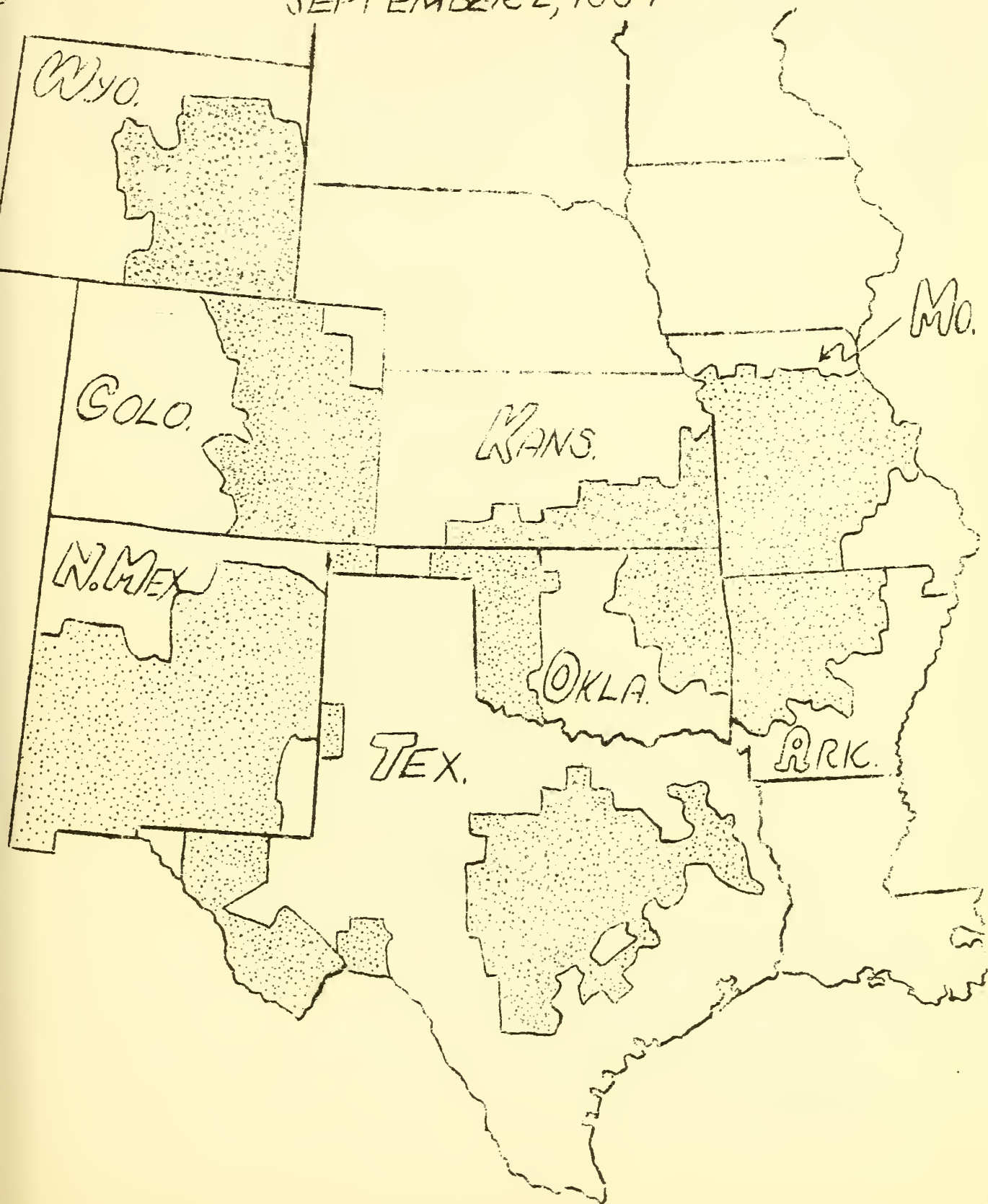
Ken Gapen and Don Looper
Radio and Television Service

Enclosure:

"Back to School" Announcement

DROUGHT DISASTER AREAS

SHADED AREAS INDICATE DROUGHT-STRIKEN COUNTIES
SEPTEMBER 2, 1954



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RFD LETTER

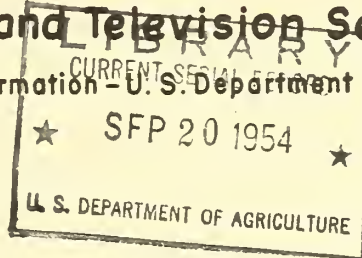
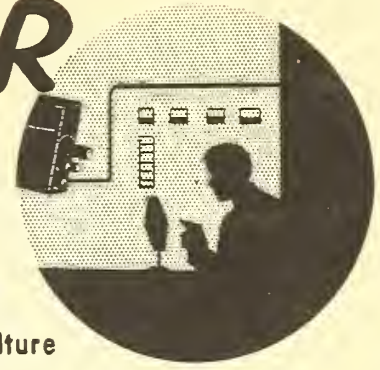
To

Radio Farm Directors

From

Radio and Television Service

Office of Information - U. S. Department of Agriculture



September 10, 1954
Letter No. 629

Dear Farm Director:

The big agricultural story here this week concerns the setting in motion of Public Law 480 of the 83rd Congress, the "Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954."

More popularly, this is known as the billion dollar surplus disposal program. It makes available \$700 million of CCC commodities or funds for use in selling our farm surpluses to friendly countries and accepting their own currencies in return. (This will help get around problems of dollar shortages and currency exchange, and will stimulate movement of our surpluses.)

Also, it makes available \$300 million of CCC commodities in meeting famine or other relief needs in friendly foreign countries.

The executive order was signed by the President yesterday (Sept. 9) in Denver. It assigns to the Department of Agriculture (through the Foreign Agricultural Service) the major responsibility in carrying out the \$700 million sales portion. The Foreign Operations Administration will be responsible for the \$300 million relief portion.

Clarence Francis, chairman of the board of General Foods Corporation, who is a special consultant to the President, will give overall leadership to the surplus disposal program, working through an interagency committee.

USDA's procedures for operation are pretty well formulated and details will be announced shortly.

The new program aims at selling our surpluses in a businesslike, competitive way, at the same time making sure that world prices are not driven down. The sales feature and the foreign currency uses permitted should result in mutually beneficial trade expansion and economic development.

Secretary Speaks Monday before State Officers

We mailed you a copy of Secretary Benson's talk next Monday (September 13) before the Association of Commissioners, Secretaries and Directors of Agriculture at Brainerd, Minn.

Drought Feed Program Shows Progress

More help is moving now to farmers and ranchers in the eight states where drought is most severe. Supplies are beginning to roll under the emergency feed grain program -- part of the Department's over-all drought relief effort. Reports earlier this week showed that nearly 20 thousand purchase orders -- covering more than 2 million bushels of grain - had already been issued to farmers.

The emergency feed grain program is designed to help producers maintain their foundation breeding herds of cattle, sheep, and goats. Under this program, eligible farmers and ranchers get supplemental grain supplies from regular feed dealers. They pay part of the price with special "purchase orders", which are good for part of the cost of each hundredweight of grain they buy -- either as straight grain, or as grain in mixed feed. The dealers then use these purchase orders to get Commodity Credit Corporation surplus grains, to replace part of the supplies they have sold to farmers. The CCC grains -- available under the program -- are corn, grain sorghums, oats and barley.

This emergency feed grain program is designed primarily to offer needed help to farmers in designated counties of the 8 states which have been named as drought emergency areas -- and any others which may be added.

Feed and grain dealers, the Federal Government, and state and local agencies are all cooperating to help farmers and ranchers stay in business in the drought areas.

The Week's Bug Report

Here are highlights from the weekly insect survey:

The corn ear worm is heavily attacking sorghum in areas of Arkansas and Kansas. Moths are extremely abundant in Illinois and eastern Tennessee.

The lesser corn stalk borer is causing concern in soybeans in South Carolina and on peanuts in some Texas counties.

Cabbage worms are becoming a problem in several states. They are generally abundant in Massachusetts and very abundant in cabbage in Wisconsin and in New Jersey.

The cotton stem moth is reported in New Jersey for the first time. This insect is not yet known in cotton areas of this country, but is of interest because of its potential as a cotton insect enemy here. It has been found on hollyhocks in several northeastern states.

The Black Hills beetle outbreak continues in Ponderosa pine in the Dixie National Forest and Bryce Canyon National Park, both in Utah.

Farm Real Estate Values Steady from March to July

Quarterly figures show that farm real estate values did not change much from March to July. The national index of average value per acre remained at 120 (1947-49 equals 100).

School Milk Program Announced Today

The Special School Milk Program, authorized by the Agricultural Act of 1954, is being announced today. Because of the keen interest by dairy farmers and the industry in how the Program will operate, we're mailing copies of the news release, and enclosing an informational bulletin on the Program. Your assistance in explaining the Program to the many groups concerned with it will help get it operating as soon as possible, to help increase consumption of milk by school children.

Beef-and-Vegetable Campaign

Reports indicate the beef-and-vegetable campaign, set for September 30 to October 9, is getting widespread support. A new bulletin on "Freezing Combination Main Dishes" has just been published by the Human Nutrition Research Branch of the Agricultural Research Service. It's a consumer approach, of course, but if you can use it to help push the beef-and-vegetable promotion, let us know.

The new booklet points out that, when a main dish is being prepared, it often takes only a little more effort and time to make enough for several meals. A beef pie can be made, for example, and all of it frozen. Or part can be served now, and the rest frozen for use later, when a tasty meal is in order, but preparation is a problem.

Head Named for Brownsville Pink Bollworm Lab

Dr. Sloan E. Jones of Clint, Tex., has been named head of USDA's new pink bollworm research laboratory at Brownsville, Tex. He holds degrees from Clemson, Iowa State College, and Texas A. and M.; he's recently been branch manager and consultant for a leading chemical company in the southwest.

One of the most intensive research campaigns ever carried out against an insect pest is now underway at the Brownsville laboratory.

Network Farm and Home Shows September 18

NBC National Farm and Home Hour - Saturday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. EDT. "USDA Headlines" from Washington. Highlights from the National Barrow Show, which takes place at Austin, Minn., September 14-17.

ABC American Farmer - Saturday 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. EDT. "Top of the Farm News" from USDA. A USDA feature on hay and feed assistance to drought disaster areas, with Walter C. Berger, Associate Administrator of the Commodity Stabilization Service. A pickup from the dedication of Jull Hall and the Poultry Industry Hall of Fame at the University of Maryland, College Park.

CBS Farm News with Claude Mahoney - Saturday 3:30 to 3:45 p.m. EDT.

Leo Geier Joins Our TV Staff

We are happy to welcome to our television staff Leo Geier, who has been doing TV production at the University of Nebraska. He has produced farm TV programs for a number of stations in Lincoln, Omaha, and Sioux City.

Leo is a Nebraska graduate and a veteran of the Navy Air Corps. Before going into TV he had a variety of experience with two Lincoln newspapers, including sports, features, and editorial promotion. He then served as manager of the Salt-Wahoo Watershed Association for three years, handling promotion through all media. A year ago he joined the public relations office at the University of Nebraska and has been doing TV production there with George Round and Jack McBride. One of the projects he worked on was a 39-week series produced under a grant from the National Association of Educational Broadcasters -- a weekly half-hour show called the "Great Plains Trilogy."

Leo has been here about a week now, and will work with Jules Renaud and the rest of us on both package and live programs. We think his broad TV production experience will be a big help to us and to our service.

Among Ourselves...

Bill Mason is leaving WIBC Indianapolis to join WLS in Chicago. Beginning next Monday (September 13) he'll take on a new program at WLS, called "Farm World Today" and aired from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. An evening farm program is a new thing at WLS, and Bill is looking forward to it with great enthusiasm. We wish him the best of luck.

Also, good wishes to Dallas McGinnis, RFD at KXEL Waterloo, Iowa, who is leaving there October 15 to take a job at Iowa State College. He'll be working with Dutch Elder and Dale Williams.

WMAL here in Washington, D. C., has a new early morning farm program with Jim Birchfield, who also does agricultural news for the Washington Evening Star.

Joe Tonkin of Extension tells me that two outstanding 4-H Club members will be on the Voice of Firestone program on ABC radio Monday (September 13) at 8:30 p.m. EDT. They are Ronald Elkins of Farmington, N.M., and Louise Alderdice, Palmersville, Tenn.

Bob Nemcik, student trainee who has been working on our television staff this summer, is returning this week to Michigan. Later this month, he'll enroll at Michigan State College for his senior year. Bob has done fine work for us during his summer training period, and we think he has a fine future in agricultural journalism.

Sincerely,

Ken and Don

Enclosures:

The Special School Milk Program
Statistical Summary
Nat'l Fire Prevention Week Fact
Sheet and President's Proclamation
1954 Census Materials

Ken Gapen and Don Looper
Radio and Television Service

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RFD LETTER

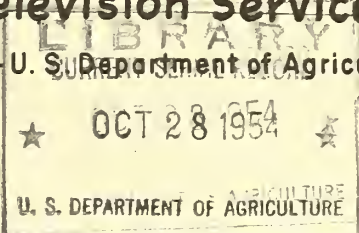
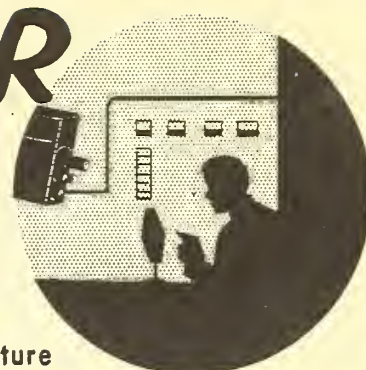
To

Radio Farm Directors

From

Radio and Television Service

Office of Information - U. S. Department of Agriculture



Letter No. 630
Sept. 17, 1954

Dear Farm Director:

The biggest farm story here this week was Secretary Benson's action in eliminating "total acreage allotments" from the program to influence the use of acres diverted from allotment crops in 1955. We mailed you the full story on this.

At the same time, the Secretary announced that eligible farmers and ranchers in designated drought disaster counties will be able to get supplemental feed supplies at still lower out-of-pocket costs under a change in the emergency feed grain program. The value of the purchase orders issued to farmers was increased from 60 cents to \$1.00 per hundred-weight.

Southeastern States Designated as Drought Disaster

Five southeastern states were designated this week as drought disaster areas. Secretary Benson designated 222 counties in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee as drought disaster areas, shortly after President Eisenhower designated each of the five states as a drought disaster area.

The Secretary named 38 counties in Alabama, 70 in Georgia, 50 in Mississippi, 46 in South Carolina (the entire state), and 18 in Tennessee. This brings to 636 the number of counties in 13 states to be named drought disaster areas. The disaster region now takes in 636 counties in 13 states -- a wide belt from South Carolina westward to New Mexico and north to Wyoming. We're attaching a map to the back of this Letter.

The USDA Drought Committee is continuing study of conditions in Kentucky, Louisiana, and Nevada, and an announcement in connection with these states is expected soon.

Wheat Supports Announced for 1955

The national average support level for the 1955 wheat crop will be not less than \$2.06 a bushel, which is $82\frac{1}{2}$ percent of the current parity price for wheat. Supports in the commercial area will reflect the full national support level. In the 12-state non-commercial area, supports will be on the basis of 75 percent of the full support level.

First Set-Asides Announced

Secretary Benson this week announced an initial set-aside of 400 million bushels of wheat and one million bales of upland cotton, as provided by the Agricultural Act of 1954. This is the "freeze" idea put forth in the President's farm recommendations to Congress last January and authorized by the recently enacted legislation.

This wheat set aside may be increased later, and the cotton set-aside will be increased to at least 3 million bales. As directed by the Act, the amounts of the commodities set aside will not be figured in "carryover" for the purpose of determining the price-support levels. They will be included, however, in figuring total supplies for purposes of acreage allotments and marketing quotas.

Commodities set aside under the legislation may be disposed in a number of ways, subject to adequate safeguards against interference with normal marketings.

Fats and Oils Exports Set New Record

U.S. exports of fats, oils, and oilseeds in the current marketing year -- which ends October 1 -- are a new record. The previous record year was 1951-52 with 2.3 billion pounds in terms of oil equivalent. Reports this marketing year had reached 2.6 billion pounds by the end of June -- with three months yet to go.

The major contributors to the new-record volume of exports are soybeans, cottonseed oil, inedible tallow and greases, and linseed oil. Sales for export from CCC-held supplies of cottonseed and linseed oils have been an important factor.

New Sub-Offices to Supervise Grain Inspection

Four new sub-offices -- at Des Moines; Houston; Mobile, Ala.; and Norfolk, Va. -- have been established by the Department to provide more adequate supervision of grain inspection in market and port areas where the movement of grain has increased in recent years.

The new sub-offices also will handle the inspection of other commodities, such as wheat flour, soybean oil, and other grain products, which are assigned to the Grain Division for inspection.

Wisconsin Is First to Sign Up for School Milk Program

The new school milk program got off to a fast start this week with Wisconsin -- appropriately -- becoming the first state to sign up. Secretary Benson said, "It is particularly fitting that Wisconsin -- our leading dairy state -- should be first to participate in the special school milk program."

Wisconsin's State plan of operation was signed Wednesday at Madison.

Secretary Benson Launches Beef-and-Vegetable Campaign

Next Wednesday, September 22, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson will help launch the beef-and-vegetable merchandising campaign, which is to be conducted from September 30 through October 9. He will address a luncheon of food editors to be held in New York City, under sponsorship of the industry groups cooperating in this campaign.

The drive to move more of the plentiful supplies of beef and vegetables available this fall is being supported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Incidentally, highlights of the New York luncheon will be broadcast in the National Farm and Home Hour on Saturday, September 25.

On October 6 the Secretary will speak before the National Conference on Rural Education in Washington, D.C.; October 11, before the National Catholic Rural Life Conference at Davenport, Ia.; on October 12, he will address the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Attaches Now Back in USDA

The agricultural attache system is now back in the Department of Agriculture, where it was established 24 years ago. The attaches have been in the Department of State since 1939, and one of the provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1954 was that the attaches were to be transferred back to Agriculture. That's been done.

Now, reporting directly to the Department of Agriculture, they will devote their full time to representing U.S. agriculture abroad. In signing the Act, President Eisenhower said the attaches were being shifted "in order to sharpen the effort to find new world markets for our agricultural products."

In addition, they will continue to have a major function of obtaining information on foreign market conditions for U.S. farmers and agricultural trade groups. There are now 59 agricultural attaches assigned to 44 posts in 42 countries. In general, they will continue to be stationed at the U.S. embassies.

Last Known Source of Scrapie Disease Destroyed

Slaughter a few days ago of 117 sheep in Vinton County, Ohio, removes the last known source of the deadly scrapie disease in this country. However, positive eradication of the disease from the U.S. is not yet being claimed by the Department. Recognizable symptoms are slow to develop, and healthy-appearing but infected sheep can serve as scrapie carriers for months or even years.

Digest of Agricultural Legislation

We have a few copies of a "Digest of Agricultural Legislation Enacted During the 83rd Congress, 2nd Session." It's a 33-page mimeographed summary prepared by the Department. Write us if you want a copy.

Network Farm and Home Shows Sept. 25

NBC National Farm and Home Hour - Saturday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. EDT. "USDA Headlines" from Washington. "Beef and Vegetables Aplenty," a feature on the beef and vegetable merchandising campaign.

ABC American Farmer - Saturday 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. EDT. "Top of the Farm News" from USDA. A report from St. Paul on a regional meeting of electric co-ops; REA Administrator Ancher Nelsen will be interviewed by Ray Wolf, Extension RFD at the University of Minnesota. Also, a farm feature from Merrill Langfitt at KMA, Shenandoah, Iowa.

Among Ourselves...

We noticed Bill Givens' face (KYW Philadelphia) in the latest issue of Broadcasting-Telecasting. He was receiving a citation from Veterans Administrator Harvey Higley for work with hospitalized war veterans. He airs a four-hour show each week over the local VA hospital radio, with a transcribed version sent to 160 hospitals.

CBS Farm News is off the air for the football season, and Claude Mahoney took off for Canada and a vacation. This Saturday afternoon program will be back on the air beginning December 4.

The NBC-TV Network is presenting a weekly program "American Inventory" under a grant from the Sloan Foundation. Phil Alampi (WNBC New York) will emcee the program Sunday, September 26, at 2:00-2:30 p.m. EDT. It will be on modern farming.

Keith Morrow, Supervisor of Farm Broadcasts for the Canadian Broadcasting Company, was in this week and we had a good visit. Keith is getting ready for a farm television program which CBC will offer to all commercial stations in Canada as well as to CBC outlets. He was here to look into certain angles of farm TV in this country.

The Seventh Annual Mal Hansen Radio WOW and WOW-TV Farm Study Tour is under way. It began last Friday (Sept. 10) and will continue through Sept. 25. The 206 people will visit 11 Midwestern and Western States, plus British Columbia in Canada, traveling a total of 6600 miles. The purpose is to study at close hand agricultural methods in these other areas.

Sincerely,

Enclosure
Garden Facts

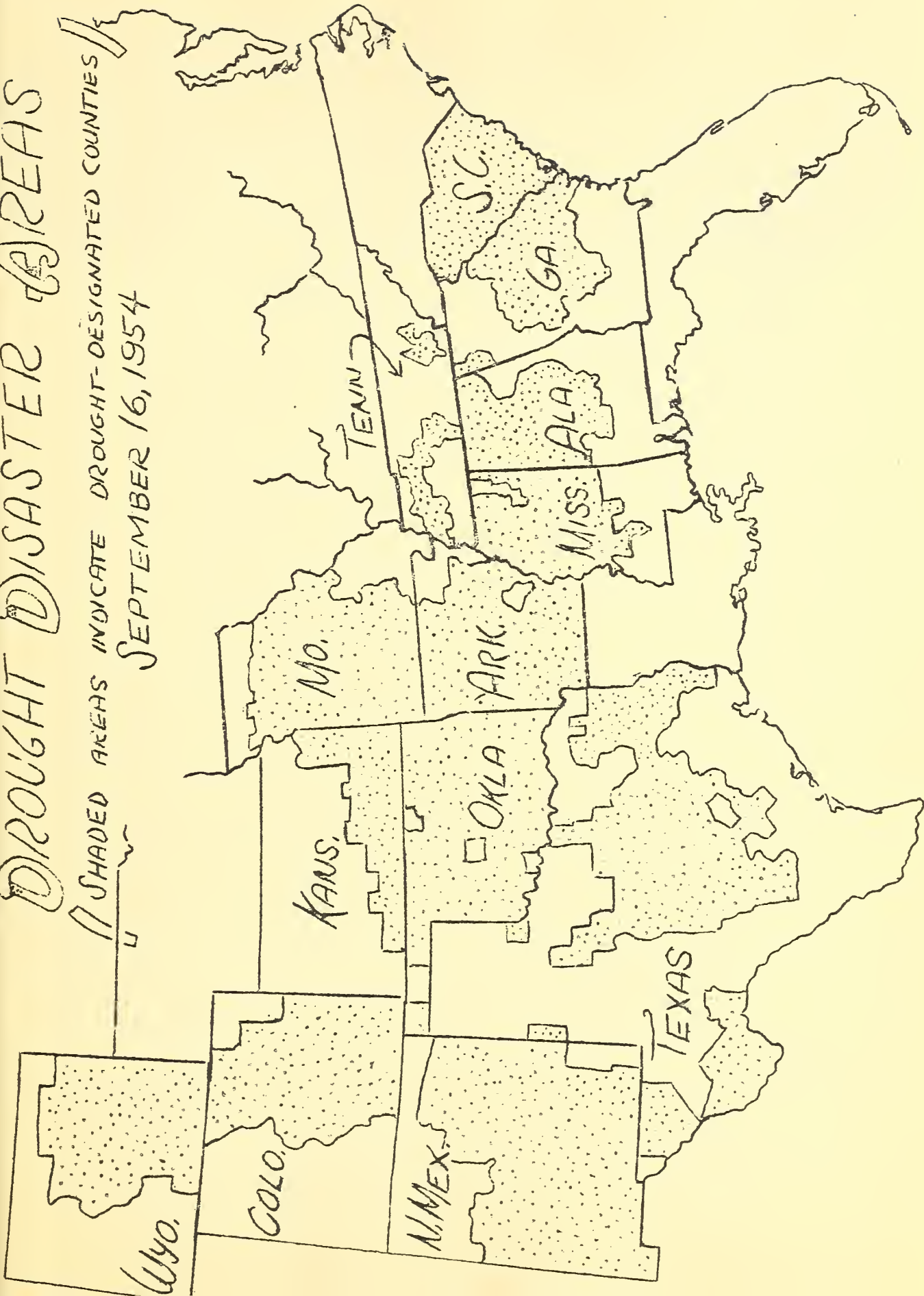
Ken and Don

Ken Gupen and Don Looper
Radio and Television Service

DROUGHT DISASTER AREAS

SHADED AREAS INDICATE DROUGHT-DESIGNATED COUNTIES

SEPTEMBER 16, 1954



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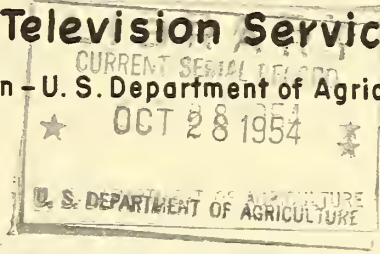
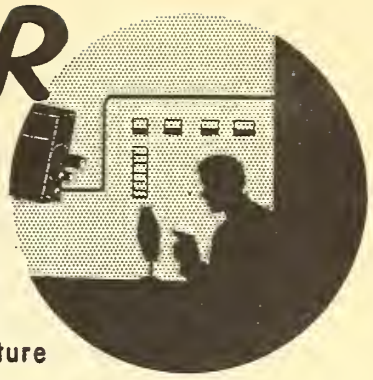


RFD LETTER

To
Radio Farm Directors

From
Radio and Television Service

Office of Information - U. S. Department of Agriculture



Letter No. 631
Sept. 24, 1954

Dear Farm Director:

During the past week, two additional states and 46 additional counties have been designated as drought disaster areas. The actions:

Six additional counties in Texas were designated, bringing the number of Texas counties so designated to 104.

Louisiana was named a drought disaster State, and 28 parishes were designated as drought disaster areas.

North Carolina was named a drought disaster State, and 12 of its counties were designated as drought disaster areas.

These actions bring to 682 the number of counties and parishes in 15 States to be listed as drought disaster areas in the current emergency.

1953-54 Cotton Exports Up 23 Percent

U.S. cotton exports during the last marketing year (ending July 31, 1954) were 23 percent above the preceding year. The total was 3,914,000 bales of 500 pounds gross. July exports (237,000 bales) were almost double July exports a year earlier and the highest for the month of July since 1950.

The big jump in July this year is attributed to the favorable price radio with foreign-grown cotton in recent months, the end-season clearance of shipments under the Foreign Aid Program and the ending early in July of a strike at Galveston, Tex., by dock and warehouse employees.

Milk Marketing Order for Appalachian Area

The Department today announced establishment of a Federal milk marketing order for the Appalachian Area, which includes part of Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Some of the larger markets in the area are Johnson City and Kingsport, Tenn.; Bristol, Va.-Tenn.; and Harlan, Ky.

A Federal milk marketing order was also established for the Central Mississippi area, which includes 18 counties and parts of two others.

Here's a Brief Background Report on Systemic Insecticides

The newest thing in bug-killing weapons for farmers, ranchers, and nurserymen is a group of lethal chemicals known as "systemic insecticides." These highly toxic compounds can be absorbed by plants or injected into the bloodstreams of farm animals to make the plants or animals poisonous to certain insects that feed on them. Chemicals of this type are called "systemics" because they move through the circulatory systems of the plants or animals on which they are used. If properly applied, these insecticides won't damage crops or livestock, but for a limited time they will make plant sap or animal blood deadly to some biting and sucking insects.

The idea of systemic insecticides is at least 200 years old. Some notable research on the introduction of chemicals into the sapstream of living trees, to control insects and preserve the wood, was done in France in the early 1800's. But we have only recently developed chemicals that offer real promise for widespread and effective application of the systemic principle in insect control.

During World War II, the insect-control picture was radically changed by the development of powerful new insecticides. DDT is the best known of these new chemicals, which are classified generally as chlorinated hydro-carbons. Most of the DDT-type insecticides have little systemic action on plants -- that is, they are not readily absorbed by plant tissues and moved in the sapstream to the growing parts of the plant. However, we have been successful, to a limited extent, in using two or three of the chlorinated hydrocarbons as systemic insecticides on cattle. One of these is lindane. Injected experimentally into the bloodstream or included in the feed of beef cattle, lindane was effective in killing cattle grubs, which live in the body tissues. Livestock systemics have also proved effective in research for controlling biting insects -- flies and mosquitoes on cattle, and screw worms.

The best systemic insecticides now in sight, however, are members of an even newer and entirely different class of chemicals -- the organic phosphorus compounds. Their deadly power as systemics was discovered by a German scientist working to develop new war gases for the Nazis during World War II. These insecticides are generally more dangerous to humans than other insect-killing chemicals now in common use.

Not all the organic phosphorus insecticides we now have are systemics. Some are used principally as contact insecticides on crops. This group includes malathion, parathion, TEPP, EPN, and chlorthion. A few have proved effective in limited experiments as systemic insecticides for injection in cattle. One of these is diazinon, which is also the active ingredient for one of the most effective dry baits so far developed for use against houseflies in dairy barns, refuse-disposal areas, and elsewhere.

Of the true systemics, so far only two have been approved for use on crops in this country. The first is schradan, which is being used with considerable success by nurserymen and greenhouse operators to control spider

mites, aphids, and thrips. The other is demeton, which has proved effective against spider mites and aphids on cotton and fruit trees, and has recently been approved for use on potatoes. Besides its systemic action, demeton is also effective against some insects as a contact insecticide.

We have hardly scratched the surface so far in the research that must be done on systemics and other new insecticides. Hundreds of new chemical compounds are under test. They may give us more powerful, more selective insect killing agents than any we have so far found. But much care must be exercised in releasing new insecticides for general use.

The Week's Cooperative Insect Report

The corn ear worm is busy over a wide area. It's infesting 80 to 90 percent of the corn in certain parts of Utah. And it has hit 40 to 60 percent of the grain sorghum in northern Kansas. In central Missouri, the ear worm is damaging the heads of grain sorghum and over much of the State it's hitting tomatoes and green beans. Field corn has been hit hard in much of Illinois, and the tomato crop is suffering where ear worm control has been skipped.

The Oriental fruit moth has appeared in California now and then for several years. This year, an outbreak in southern California is unusually severe in peach orchards. Entomologists say that if the larvae now in the orchards live through the winter, the oriental fruit moth could be a serious threat next year.

On the east coast of North Carolina, folks are in the midst of the worst outbreak of mosquitoes in 20 years.

Network Farm and Home Shows October 2

NBC National Farm and Home Hour - Saturday 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. EDT. "USDA Headlines" from Washington. A feature on the new Census of Agriculture, with Ray Hurley, Chief of Agricultural Statistics, Census Bureau.

ABC American Farmer - Saturday 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. EDT. "Top of the Farm News" from USDA. A feature on the 1954 Farm Progress Show at Camden, Ind., with Bill Mason of WLS. Also a USDA feature on the upcoming beef and vegetable promotion campaign.

ACP Funds Not Reduced by Elimination of Total Acreage Allotments

The Department explained today that the September 15 announcement eliminating compliance with total acreage allotments as a requirement for eligibility for price supports in 1955 in no way will reduce funds authorized for the 1955 Agricultural Conservation Program.

The September 15 action does not eliminate the previously announced program to influence the use of diverted acres, but simply modifies it to the extent that "total" acreage allotments are no longer required.

Among Ourselves...

Chet Randolph reports from Yankton S.D., that Clare DeKoster of Spencer, Iowa, has joined the WNAX farm department. He has been in the hatchery and feed business in northwest Iowa; he has a background of network announcing, small station management, sports and news, as well as farm broadcasting. He did two hitches in the army.

Joe Tonkin of Extension, back from a series of TV workshops in Florida, reports he had much help from Mardi Liles of WFLA, Tampa. Joe assisted Extension Editor J. Francis Cooper in conducting the workshops for extension workers.

Grant Ritter writes from WEKZ, Monroe, Wis., about the State and National Mechanical Corn Picking Contest on the Tracy and Son Farm, Janesville, October 15 and 16. "It looks like a wonderful field of corn!" writes Grant.

The WGN folks report that the third annual "Corn Harvest Days" will be Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in Bloomington, Ill. The event is sponsored by WGN and the Bloomington-Normal Junior Chamber of Commerce. Last year 80,000 people came.

The WLS boys are getting primed for the 1954 Farm Progress Show at Camden, Ind., October 7. It's sponsored by Prairie Farmer-WLS with local agricultural and civic organizations cooperating, and will include exhibits and demonstrations of new developments in equipment, methods, ideas and research.

We hear that Robert Worrall will join the editorial office at Michigan State College as extension television editor. He's now assistant State 4-H Club leader in Ohio.

Sincerely,

Ken and Don

Enclosures:

Outlook Digest
Statistical Summary
Market News Offices
Scrapie Disease

Ken Capen and Don Looper
Radio and Television Service